

ABSTRACT

5 A floor mat, system and method, wherein one embodiment of the mat
comprises a nonwoven substrate through which carpet pile fibers are tufted
and which also comprises either a foam rubber backing sheet which exhibits
the same degree of shrinkage as the carpet pile component or a rubber
backing sheet which possesses a strength modulus above about 1,000
pounds per square inch. With such backing sheet requirements either the
overall shrinkage of the mat will be even or the backing sheet will be strong
10 enough to compensate for varying degrees of shrinkage between the pile
substrate and the backing sheet. The resultant floor mat meets industrial
laundry standards of rippling (i.e., curling up) and delaminating (i.e., loosening
and ultimate falling out of tufted pile fibers), preferably utilizes a nonwoven
carpet pile substrate, and is able to withstand vigorous laundry processes
15 without either damaging the subject rotary washer or centrifugal dryer or
becoming damaged itself upon exposure to such harsh conditions.

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